



## Prez says:

Greetings to all.

Well, here we are the backside of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner and special event station weekend. To all that attended, thanks for the support. I feel that it is necessary to acknowledge the many people that worked on this event, whether directly or indirectly behind the scenes.

Bob Hanson VE3RVA did yeoman's duty at getting the dinner plans, cake and prize collection. Also a special thanks goes out to Gail Hanson for all her behind the scene work.

Bill Unger VE3XT who, with help of others, pulled off the special event station setup with the help of the 55+ Senior Center and the members of VE3SAO radio club. We have received praise for our work at the center and for keeping the area clean and orderly that we were allowed to set up and play radio in. We even got a visit from Nestor Procup VE3NPS a radio operator and one of the original "sao" members. To all of the group that staffed the site, operated the radios, logged or just came in support and fellowship, THANK YOU!

Doug McCormack VE3EFC for his contribution of the CQ 100 program and allowing us to use this new angle on amateur radio for this weekend event. Doug was a troubleshooter and offered many valuable tidbits for the planning of the 75<sup>th</sup> events.

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP was very valuable to the group by keeping the email and planning group hooked up so that all information was directed to the committee in a timely fashion and kept everyone on the same page.

Ken Rusnak VE3EFZ helped in the original meetings in securing the 55+ Center and working with that group to revive the station commonly known as "sao" or in long form, senior amateur Ontario.

Leo Wehrstedt VE3ATC who has spent a great deal of time working on the history of the LARC by scanning pictures and letters etc. so we can have a electronic data base for all to enjoy on the web and in the future.

Terry Stewardson VA3LU, Dave Kimpton VE3AVS, Lindo Scalese VE3NHX and Jim O'Brien VE3UA, Robert Mazur VA3ROM, Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG were also involved in the history preservation to electronic files.

If I have missed anyone, please feel free to let me know because without your help, it would have been a lot harder to pull this off. Please accept my thanks and gratitude for a job well done.

And last but not least THANK YOU to the members of the LARC past and present because without your contributions we would not have had the chance to enjoy this special time together. I'm honoured to be part of it, how about you?

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

**LARC SENATE**

Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
 Pat Doherty VE3PD  
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS  
 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD  
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**ABOUT US**

The :Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to [ve3snw@shaw.ca](mailto:ve3snw@shaw.ca)

**LARC EXECUTIVE****President**

Randy Godfred VE3OJ

**Vice-President**

Bob Hansen VE3RVA 767-6924

**Secretary**

Karl VE3RRP

**Treasurer**

Joe Coghlan VE3TBX 344-6566

**Directors**

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

Doug VE3EFC

Brian Bolt VE3BCQ

**Past President**

Bill Unger VE3XT

**Lakehead Amateur Radio Club****Treasurer's Report**

**Balance on Hand - April 1, 2009     \$6,836.17**

**Income**

Clothing	\$2,089.00
Crests	\$66.00
50/50 Draw	\$25.00
Annual Dinner	\$1,260.00
Bank Interest	\$0.06
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,440.06</b>

**Expenses**

Thunder Bay Telephone	\$47.83
Bank Service Charges	\$2.00
Crests	\$501.44
Annual Dinner Exp.	\$100.00
75th Anniversary Expenses	\$205.28
Mail Box Rental (for 2 years)	\$288.70
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,145.25</b>
<b>Balance on Hand - May 5, 2009</b>	<b>\$9,130.98</b>

Joe "Calculator" Coghlan - VE3TBX

**LARC Emergency Coordinator**

VA3OJ Randy Gottfred 474-0910

**ARES District Emergency Coordinator**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

**Assistant**

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

**CANWARN**

VA3JMS John 767-3631

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

**Public Service Events**

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

VA3JMS John 767-3631

**Amateur Radio****Accredited Examiner**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

[flesnick@tbaytel.net](mailto:flesnick@tbaytel.net)

**LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 145.490 (-600) (100.0 Hz)  
 442.075 (+5 MHz)  
 144.390 APRS

VE3BGA (Hillcrest H.S.) 145.450 (-600) (IRLP Node VA3LU 123.0 Hz)  
 442.825 (+5 MHz) (100.0 Hz)  
 VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

We would like to thank the following businesses for their generosity ...please remember them when you are shopping.

The logo for Durham Radio, featuring the words "Durham Radio" in a stylized, blue, outlined font.

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The logo for Radioworld, featuring the word "Radioworld" in a blue, serif font, with a small globe icon replacing the letter "o" in "Radio".

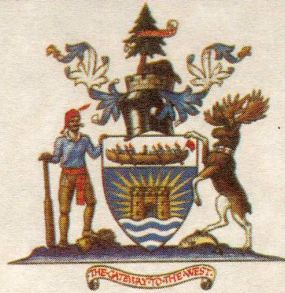
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Let's take a moment to pat ourselves on the back



*On behalf of the Council and Citizens  
of the  
City of Thunder Bay  
Sincere congratulations and Best Wishes  
extended to the*


*Lakehead Amateur Radio Club*

*on the occasion of your  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*In recognition and thanks for your commitment to public  
service in our community.*

*We are pleased to share in the celebration of this milestone  
and wish you continued success in the years to come.*

*Friday, April 17, 1934 – Friday, April 17, 2009*

  
Mayor Lynn Peterson



**CITY OF  
Thunder Bay**  
*Superior by Nature*

**Minutes for the  
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

**75th Anniversary Dinner Meeting**

**Date: April 17, 2009**

**President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.**

55 people in attendance.

A moment of silence and thanks was given for our SK, and our military's lost soldiers. Visitors and new hams were welcomed. Volunteers were thanked.

Thunder Bay Councilor Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, attended as a representative of the City of Thunder Bay. She called the LARC members, service ambassadors to Thunder Bay and area. Ambassadors because through our world-wide QSO's we become ambassadors to our area. She presented the LARC with an Award of Appreciation from the Mayor and the City. LARC President Randy Gottfred VA3OJ accepted the award on behalf of the club.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Coghlan VE3TBX moved to accept the report as printed in the April Hi-Q. Seconded by Norm Bell VE3XRC. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Terry Stewardson VA3LU moved to accept the March meeting's minutes as printed in the April Hi-Q. Seconded by Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG . Passed Unanimously.

Old Business:

Ham Classes:

Bill Unger VE3XT reported that 8 new hams passed their exams so far. Bill made the classes fun as well as a learning experience.

Public Service: The next event will be the ten mile road race in May.

Repeater News: Terry Stewardson VA3LU reported repeaters working well.

CANWARN Training: Canwarn training is to take place May 22nd 7 PM, Shuniah Building, Confederation College.

SkyWarn: SkyWarn training was being held in Grande Marais at the community Center on April 24th. Local hams were encouraged to go.

75th Anniversary Committee: Operating event April 18th, 19th VC3FW. Bill Unger VE3XT reported that antennas and rigs were ready to go at the 55+ centre for VC3FW. He expects 500 – 1000 contacts over the 2 days. Station set-up is at 9 AM, meet at "Fat Cats" Restaurant at 7AM for breakfast.

Special Callsign Prefixes:

Reminder that all club members can use VC3 (VE3) and VB3 (VA3) special prefixes through the month of April.

*Meeting Minutes Continued...*

Keith Fiske VE3JQ was honoured as being the attending founding member of LARC on it's 75th anniversary. He was licensed April 1, 1934. He mentioned that he learned CW in the army in 1928.

Oldest radio prize went to Randy Gottfred VA3OJ (Pizza Hut Gift Certificate), runners up: Ken Rusnak VE3EFZ, Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG, both received an Applebee's Gift Certificate.

LARC wishes to thank the following contributors for door prizes:

Signs Now, RadioWorld, Durham Radio, The Keg, The Prospector, Montanas, Boston Pizza, Pizza Hut, Applebee's, Mallon's Corporate Impressions, Travelodge Hotel Airline, Royal Bank Canada (River St.).

50/50 Draw: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Adjournment moved by: Norm Bell VE3XRC

Next LARC Meeting: May 14, 2009.  
73,

Karl VE3RRP

## CANWARN

### May 22nd...7 PM...

Room C242  
Shunia Building,  
Confederation College

## ARES TRAINING JUNE 13TH

Please mark the following date on your calendars! And let Brad Harris VE3MXJ (Thunder Bay EC) know if you can attend at [ve3mxj@rac.ca](mailto:ve3mxj@rac.ca) . Thanks.

There will be a Lakehead ARES training day Saturday June 13th, 2009, from 9 AM to (approximately) 6 PM. The day will be split into two parts. In the morning, message handling procedures and logging will be reviewed, and after lunch, the group will deploy into a mock disaster scenario for the afternoon.

Morning Location 9 AM:  
(Photo ID required.)  
Meeting Room  
Salvation Army  
545 Cumberland St. N.  
Thunder Bay

Lunch:  
Available at the Salvation Army for \$3.00  
or bring your own.

Afternoon Location:  
Members will be deployed throughout the VE3YQT  
repeater coverage area.  
Net Control: VE3ONN



## VC3FW - 75 Years of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

On April 17, 1934 a group of Fort William and Port Arthur Radio Amateurs got together to form the "Lakehead Wireless Experimenters Association". Now, 75 years later to the day we are celebrating our history and looking forward to the next 75 years "Of Service to the Public" as our motto says.

But this story starts several months ago when a group was formed to organize a celebration of our history. We envisioned our annual dinner and an operating event as well. The prefix VC3 was obtained from Industry Canada for this event. So we would be operating a special events station using VC3FW, our club call.

The dinner date was moved from its customary date in February and held on April 17, 2009 exactly 75 years to the day from the original meeting. The honoured guest that evening was Keith Fiske, VE3JQ who has been a member of the LARC for 75 years having obtained his licence in '34. One of his jobs was telegrapher on the Tug James Whalen now set up as a display on the Kaministiquia River here in Thunder Bay.

Several sites were examined for the operating part of our weekend and we eventually settled on the 55+ Center where there was an existing station set up. The other bonus was that it has 40 and 20M beams each atop 18 metre towers. But after initial testing we determined the beams had deteriorated after many years of being in the environment and were not resonant any where near 40 or 20. After some consultations we put up a long Carolina Windom to be used on 40 and a sloper for 20. Coax was run in and we were ready. We also set up an ICQ100 station so people operating that mode could also contact us. And a PSK31 station was also set up off site to allow contacts on that mode as well.

After the dinner on the 17<sup>th</sup>, early the next morning we met for breakfast at 7AM and then headed off to the 55+ Center to activate VC3FW. The first thing we noticed was that to call conditions pitiful would have been a compliment. Even 40, the usual workhorse was in sad shape with rapid QSB and weak signals. 20 was a wash for the moment. But we did persevere and managed to pull contacts out of the ether. But each one was a small victory.

Due to operational constraints at the 55+ we could only operate from 9 to 5. But during those hours many operators got to play on various modes. Some of the most memorable contacts were the first QSO's made by newly minted Hams from the ham classes held this winter. Its unfortunate conditions were not better.

Sunday, April 19 we again activated VC3FW and were met with terrible conditions. But by the end of the weekend we had an impressive number of QSO's and new excitement in the LARC.

Since our event was the same weekend as the Ontario QSO party we managed to work a number of VE3's who wished us Happy Anniversary as well.

When all was said and done we made 131 QSO's on 40, 132 on 20, 98 on ICQ100 and 74 using PSK31. We are offering a special award to anyone who worked VC3FW and you can go to our web site and find all the details. There is also a picture of the founding fathers of the LARC. Here are our coordinates <http://www.larclub.net/>

I won't try to thank all the individuals who made the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club a success as I will miss some one. But it was a special event in the life of a club and a tribute to all who made it a success.

Bill  
VE3XT

## North East Regional Directors Report April, 2009

The monthly meeting of the Regional Directors was held on April 28 starting at 2330Z.

I guess the most important thing I want to mention is membership numbers. RAC is feeling the pinch of the recession as many of you are. But we are in serious trouble. We will probably run a substantial deficit this year. I am asking you to please renew your membership or ask another Amateur you know to join. Is the hobby worth \$50 a year to you? Remember we are the organization that represents your best interests to Industry Canada. Quite frankly, if there is no RAC who would represent you to the regulatory body? Would you want us to be back as a subsidiary or the ARRL?

We are also looking for a national chair for the Amateur Radio Directional Finding Committee. If you are into DF'ing and would like to give back a little to Amateur Radio please let me know.

I am still looking for Assistant Directors for Northwest Ontario in the Kenora, Dryden or Fort Francis area and as well a AD for the Ottawa area. It is not a large commitment of time and it's an opportunity to promote Amateur Radio in your area.

On May 19 and 20 I will be in Ottawa as part of the CARAB delegation in meetings with Industry Canada. This is the time to bring forward any ideas you may have. Then later in the week I will attend the Board of Directors meeting. This is where we plan the future of RAC. Where do you want to see us in the future? Please email me any ideas you have so I can mention it to the other Directors and Executive.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [ve3xt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xt@rac.ca).

73

Bill VE3XT  
North East Ontario  
Regional Director

**For Sale:**

Comet dual-band mag mount antenna near new..\$50  
Midland dual-band thru-glass antenna....unopened  
pkg..\$35  
Custom-made dual band J-pole base antenna...never  
used...\$40  
Bearcat BCT8 trunking scanner...very good  
shape...\$150  
HW-8 QRP CW transceiver c/w HK power supply  
used very little...\$100  
Icom IC-706 MkIIIG all band-all mode transeiver near  
new c/w and LDG autotuner..brand-new...\$800 for  
both.  
Larsen NLA magnet antenna base...\$25

344-6189  
Bill Haskin VA3AY

Rick Johnson KB0BDN from Grand Marais is looking for some volunteers to help with a run along the Superior Hiking Trail. The race is on the long weekend in May (Sat May 16) The time frame is from 07:30 and no later than 15:00 that afternoon. The furthest checkpoint is approx 1/2 hr from Grand Marais driving wise. He is looking for one or more people to fill the spots, but needs at least one for sure. If you can help please contact Rick at RickJo@blackspruce.com asap so he can shore up his staff. I know it is the long weekend but here is a chance to get some additional training and extend a hand across the line to help the group in Grand Marais

Thanks for taking the time to consider this request



## Ham Lake Half Marathon and 5km Run

On a clear sunny morning, May 3, 2009, a lone mobile headed south to Grand Marais and then turned northwest into the wilds of Northern Minnesota. At the helm, Paul Curtin, va3pdc and Fred Collings ve4tro riding shotgun and Randy Gottfred va3oj stuffed into the back seat, the mobile rolled on and on into the backwoods. Comments were fired back and forth about how long it would be until we reached the Manitoba border. Randy offered a guided tour of the area because this is the same place that the John Beargrease Dog Sled Race takes place.

The Gunflint Trail extends well back into these woods and will lead you to the home of Rick kb0bdn and Jayne n0uyq Johnson, our hosts for the day. We hook up with Pat Scully n0wsi and Terry Olsen n0acp and Dave Palmer w0prw and Dan Riddle ac0lf at the #2 Gunflint Fire Station. Soon the yard is covered with volunteers that have come together for this annual event.

The reason for this annual event is to raise funds and awareness to the fact that a huge fire known as the Ham Lake Fire in 2007 threatened the whole area. Many of these volunteers who live and work in the area had to be evacuated to safer areas and left many behind to battle this fire. The run is a way of saying thanks to the crews that did what they could to save the community from total destruction and help the fire dept. with much needed funding. I have included a couple of pictures to show how a fire can wipe out a beautiful area to leave it looking like the face of the moon.

At the starting line is a group of about 100 runners that are waiting for the word to start the run to the end of the trail. You have 2 options in this race, finish or get picked up by the sweepers. This is a one-way trip up to the finish line because when you reach the end of the trail you run out of road. Many of the runners are locals with a few from Thunder Bay and rest from along the Lake Superior area.

The public service side of the event has turned the Gunflint Trail into a one-lane road and use pilot cars to safely guide cars in and out of the area because it is the only feeder road into that area. Amateur Radio provides race updates at checkpoints and is in constant touch with public service if an emergency situation arises.

The race progresses at a good pace and most of the participants will reach the finish line to a live band, an adoring crowd and a hearty meal. The few stragglers meet up with fellow runners and supporters and high 5's are exchanged.

The amateur operators gather at the finish line and are fed a tasty meal of fresh BBQ ham and beans with sides of salads and baked goodies. It fills the hollow legs of the workers. A quick debriefing follows with pros and cons that happened during the race and many recommendations to be put forward to our group as well as the race organizers.

With the job complete, we retire to Rick and Jayne's house on Tucker Lake for a couple of hours of rag chewing and fellowship. Soon time arrives that the real world must take over and we need to get to our perspective homes wherever they are.

The total trip by road takes about 2.5 hours. During the ride home, time passes quickly as trio talks about the day's events and all the things learned.

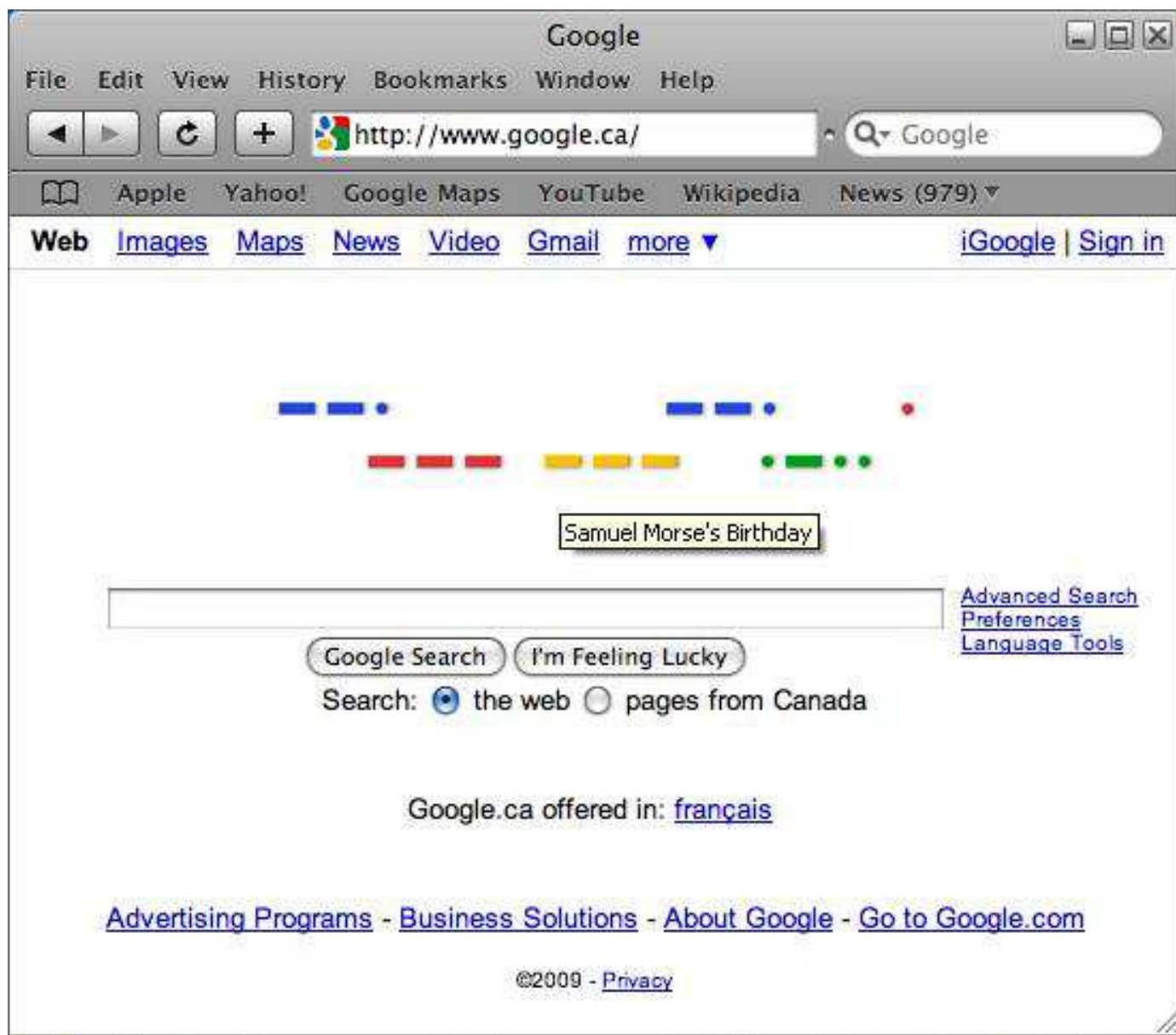
Thanks to the Boundary Waters Amateur Radio Club for making these offers to join them on some of the events that they are involved in. Thanks to Rick and Jayne for the hospitality at their home. Last but not least, the local radio operators for the handshake across the line.

Randy VA3OJ Thunder Bay

PHOTOS ON PAGE 10



# THANKS GOOGLE!



# May 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			COFFEE COFFEE COFFEE COFFEE			
REAL GEEKS HAVE CALLSIGNS			BOSTON ON ARTHUR	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 LARC MEETING	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 CANWARN TRAINING 7 PM CON COLLEGE	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint 2000 to 2400 Local Time